

MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

February 17, 2012

The 308th meeting of the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority was held Friday, February 17, 2012 in the McKenna Conference Room, 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI. Chairman Santoro called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Anthony J. Santoro, Chairman

Dr. William Croasdale, Vice Chair/Treasurer

Mr. John Howell, Secretary

Ms. Patricia Doyle

Ms. Faith LaSalle, Esq.

Board Members Absent:

The Honorable Robert J. McKenna

Mr. Steven Archer

Mr. Solomon A. Solomon

Guest:

Mr. John Breguet

Also Attending:

Mr. Charles P. Kelley, Interim Coordinating Officer

Ms. Gail Mance-Rios, Deputy Director

Mr. Joseph Palumbo, Esq., Legal Counsel

Mr. Marc Lacroix, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Peter Kerwin, Chief Program Development

Mr. Michael Joyce, Director Scholarship & Grants

Ms. Dana Peterson-Fatuda, Assistant Administrative Officer

Mr. Charles Miller, Chief Information Officer

Ms. Kathleen Sisson, Director, WaytogoRI

Mr. Noel Simpson, RISLA

Ms. Clordine Cox, RIHEAA

Mr. Thomas Pearce, RIHEAA

Mr. Justin Benevides, Legislative Budget Analyst

1. Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting held on November 11, 2011 were not available.

2. Chairman's Report: Chairman Santoro stated that he did not have anything to report.

A motion to go into executive session pursuant to matters of: Collective bargaining and/or Litigation Matter – pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5§ (a) (2) and Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct – pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 § (a)(4). The motion was made by Mr. Howell, and seconded by Ms. Doyle.

Voted in favor: Dr. Anthony Santoro, Ms. Patricia Doyle, Ms. Faith LaSalle, and Mr. John Howell.

Voted against: None

Dr. Croasdale abstained from voting and did not participate in the closed session.

Public Session resumed at 10:05 a.m.

Dr. Santoro stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session. Dr. Santoro entertained a motion to seal the minutes of the closed session. On motion madder by Mr. Howell and seconded by Ms. Doyle, it was VOTED to seal the minutes of the closed session.

Voted in favor: Dr. Anthony Santoro, Ms. Faith LaSalle, Mr. John Howell, and Ms. Patricia Doyle.

Voted against: None

Abstained: Dr. Croasdale.

3. Interim Coordinator's Report: No report

4. Financial Report – No report

5. Investment Report – No report

6. Grant/Scholarship Update – No updates

7. WaytogoRI Report – No updates

8. Action Item: (c) Engagement of Counsel for Labor Relations

Dr. Santoro entertained a motion to engage legal counsel for the pending labor relations matters.

A motion made by Ms. LaSalle and seconded by Ms. Doyle, it was VOTED to engage the services of John Breguet, Esquire to represent the Authority in pending labor relations matters.

Voted in favor: Dr. Anthony Santoro, Ms. Faith LaSalle, Mr. John Howell, and Ms. Patricia Doyle.

Voted against: None

Abstained: Dr. William Croasdale.

Dr. Croasdale proposed using \$5 million from the Agency Operating Fund for retraining of returning veterans, \$5 million for people that are unemployed and who need retraining while attending college, and the remaining funds to be used for college scholarships and grants for both public and private higher education, and, to work on a plan to see if we can financially continue RIHEAA by applying agency earnings from the 529 program to the State Grant Program or WaytogoRI.

Dr. Santoro stated that in light of the upcoming legislative hearings the agency would be better off incorporating those suggestions into a more definitive plan. Dr. William Croasdale stated that we should incorporate that in the plan.

Mr. Palumbo stated that we could add that to the agenda of the next RIHEAA Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment was at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. John Howell

Secretary